the end of September, 1989, there were 32,873 branches of commercial banks, 14,129 branches of Regional Rural Banks and 90,081 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, catering extensively to rural credit needs. For the commercial banks, under the Service Area Approach, each branch in rural/semi-urban centres has been allotted 15 to 25 villages for meeting credit needs of the area. The details of credit facilities available under different schemes are required to be exhibited in such branches. They also, observe one day in a week as non-public business working day for visiting rural areas and other development works. Besides, the application forms for loans under various schemes have been prescribed in regional languages.

Financial assistance for Tripura Jute Mills

*258. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to sanction one time grant of Rs. Twenty crore to run the Tripura Jute Mills Limited, Agartala; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of dearness allowance into dearness pay

*259. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Central Pay Commission had recommended the formation of a Permanent Wage Board, in consultation with the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery; if so, what is Government's response thereto and the probable terms and conditions of the said Board; and

(b) whether Government propose to convert the whole or a part of the dearness allowance into dearness pay; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The Fourth Central Pay Commision suggested that Government may set up a permanent body, which should be responsible for maintaining and updating the basic data on pay and allowances of Government employees and to review the pay scales and rates of allowances and other related matters. In this recommendation consultation with National Council of JCM has not been envisaged. The Government after examination of the suggestion decided that Ministry of Finance may set up a compact unit, which should be responsible for maintaining and updating the basic data on pay and allowances of Government employees and other related matters. Not satisfied with this decision of the Government, the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) raised a demand for implementing the recommendations of the Commission in this regard in full. A Committee, with the Finance Secretary as the Chairman, and including *inter alia* the Staff members of the Standing Committee of the JCM was set up to go into this question further. Though the matter was discussed at a number of meetings of this Committee, it has not been found possible so far to arrive at a consensus.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to convert the whole or a part of the Dearness Allowance into Dearness Pay.